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10/669,591	09/24/2003	Doug Duchon	57173/1481	5690

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Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP
1177 Avenue of the Americas
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EXAMINER

WITCZAK, CATHERINE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3767

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12/29/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 23-31, 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirschman et al (US 3,523,523).

Reich discloses in column 1, lines 45-50; column 2, lines 41-47; and column 6, line 29-34; a method comprising the steps of sensing a volume of fluid in a chamber of the syringe remaining following a first injection; providing a fluid reservoir in communication with the syringe chamber (36); determining a preset amount of fluid necessary for a subsequent injection from user input; receiving a user input comprising a safety parameter related to maximum injection volume, maximum flow rate, maximum pressure and rise time; comparing said volume in said chamber with said preset amount of fluid and advancing the plunger if the preset volume is less than the volume remaining; retracting a plunger (46) within said chamber of said syringe to a predetermined limit for filling the syringe; and purging air from the syringe (column 4, lines 25-34).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 32-37 are rejected as being unpatentable over Reich as applied above, in further view of Riley et al (US 5,672,155).

Reich discloses the claimed invention except for the plunger being retracted at a first, slower speed of about 2mL/sec until about 40mL of fluid has been withdrawn, followed by a faster rate of 3mL/sec. Riley teaches in column 12, lines 12-36 that it is known to use an initial slow rate of retraction. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to start with a slow retraction speed as taught by Riley et al in the method of Reich in order to prevent air from being drawn in. Furthermore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to vary the speed from a slower rate of 2mL to a faster retraction rate of about 3mL because Applicant has not disclosed that these particular rates (ie 2mL/sec and 3mL/sec) provide an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem.

3. Claims 38 and 40 are rejected as being unpatentable over Reich.

Reich discloses the claimed invention except for expressly disclosing the syringe being angled upward at about 10 to 20 degrees. Reich teaches in column 3, lines 35-60 that it is known to adjust the rotation of the syringe about its vertical axis. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to angle the syringe at about 10 to 20 degrees since Applicant has not disclosed that these particular angles provide an advantage, are used for a particular purpose, or solve a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with the device of Reich because the support arm D of the housing allows a user to angle the syringe at any

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desired angle. Therefore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Reich to obtain the invention as specified in claims 38 and 40.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CATHERINE N. WITCZAK whose telephone number is (571)272-7179. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Sirmons can be reached on (571) 272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Catherine N Witczak/

Examiner, Art Unit 3767

/Tatyana Zalukaeva/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3761